

Rockford Ill
Decr 9 '84

My dear Mr Watson

At the time I
had Mrs Austin Willow from
Aiken Co etc which you refer-
under examination I thought
it might be what Nuttall
had intended as his B. stephensii
but since from the fact
that I was unable to verify
this. I failed to see how it
could be clearly separated ^{any way}
from the typical B. flavescens
state of the Rocky Mts unless
possibly by a greater constancy
of difference in the shape
of the leaves than the

specimens in hand seemed
to warrant. and in this
Mr Cusick's specimens do not
help us out. I know it
seems like carrying matters
too far to lump this with
flavescens on the one hand
and crass Scoleciana on the
other - but I recall very
distinctly the absolute failure
I experienced in attempting to
draw any lines. However
after the holidays are over
in this bunch of numerous
letters I confidently expect
to return to Italy studies
so long but in abeyance
and I will not therefore

return your ticket till I
have gone over the matter
again

I have a comforting
conviction as far as politics
is concerned and that is that
the great social and material
interests of the people rule
this country - the politician is
a noisy fellow - very much
puffed up with an idea
of his immense importance.
But Washington is not to the
United States what London is
to Great Britain - not by a
long shot! On this account

I am not sorry to see a
change of administration if
only to convince people that
neither prosperity nor depression

are so absolutely dependent
upon Act of Congress —
as some people would have
no believe —

Yours very truly
Wm L Webb

Webb